(b) and (c) At the request of Government of Karnataka (GOK), inspection of proposed site identified for Civil Enclave at Bidar Airforce Station has been carried out by a technical team of Airports Authority of India (AAI). AAI has forwarded the feasibility report to GOK to obtain NOC from Ministry of Defence, IAF for establishing a Civil Enclave and also to confirm the availability and handing over the required land to AAI free of cost and free from all encumberances. Matter being at preliminary stage, no definite time frame for operationalisation of the civil enclave can be indicated.

Operation of flights with smaller cabin crew

183. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of flights operated with a cabin crew consisting of 4 members instead of 6 in Delhi region in the last three months;

(b) the reasons for this shortage;

(c) whether it is a fact that on the one hand flights are being operated with a reduced cabin crew and on the other hand cabin crew is being engaged in office work;

(d) if so, the reasons for adopting this policy;

(e) whether Indian Airlines would reconsider its such policy in future;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The number of flights from Northern Region (Delhi) of erstwhile Indian Airlines which operated with 4 cabin crew was average 3 per day in August, 2007, 6 per day in September, 2007 and 7 per day in October, 2007. However, the service procedures were not affected on account of the smaller cabin crew.

(b) Due to last minute sick reporting or non reporting by the rostered cabin crew and late arrivals or delays/disruptions in the schedule, flights sometimes operate with a crew complement different from the printed roster. The flights have to be operated with smaller cabin crew.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (g) Do not arise.

Restoration work of Malda Airport

184. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have received a request from the State Government of West Bengal to take up restoration works of Malda Airport by Airports Authority of India; and

(b) if so, the response of the Central Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On a request of State Government of West Bengal to operationalize the Malda airport, a team from Airports Authority of India (AAI) inspected the airport and framed a proposal for its development/revival. For this, additional land from the State Government and signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the State

Government and AAI are required. Further action in the matter is contingent on signing of the MoU and transfer of additional land from the State Government to AAI.

Modernization of non-metro airports

185. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a scheme has been formulated to modernize 35 non-metro airports;

(b) if so, the details of such airports;

(c) whether contracts for modernisation of the airports have been awarded;

(d) if so, the details thereof, airport wise;

(e) whether any time-frame has been fixed for the work; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) *and (b) Government of India has decided to modernize 35 non-metro airports.* These airports are located at Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Guwahati, Jaipur, Udaipur, Thiruvananthapuram, Lucknow, Goa, Madurai, Mangalore, Agatti, Aurangabad, Khajuraho, Rajkot, Vadodara, Bhopal, Indore, Nagpur, Visakhapatnam, Trichy, Bhubaneswar, Coimbatore, Patna, Port Blair, Varanasi, Agartala, Dehradun, Imphal, Ranchi, Raipur, Agra, Chandigarh, Dimapur, Jammu and Pune. The air side including Terminal Building of all these airports would be developed by Airports Authority of India (AAI). However, the city side development of the 24 out of 35 non-metro airports would be taken up through Private Sector Participation.

(c) to (f) Works for the Terminal Buildings and air side facilities have been finalised and are taken up by AAI. The development of all the 35 non-metro airports will be completed by 2010.

Recruitment of pilots

186. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any acute shortage of pilots in the country;

(b) if so, the estimated requirement of pilots for the year 2015;

(c) whether pilots are recruited from foreign countries;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action taken to fill up the vacancies indigenously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) With the exponential growth in the Indian civil aviation industry there is an increase in the number of scheduled and non scheduled operators with many of them going in for a fleet expansion programme including new types of aircraft. This has manifested in shortage of pilots.

(b) With the present growth of aviation industry it has been estimated that in the next five years 5000 additional pilots would be required for scheduled operations and 1000 pilots for non scheduled and private operations.